

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05235 01 OF 02 040208Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /073 W
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R 301535Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2078
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 5235

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR PARA ONE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, JM
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER MANLEY'S PARTY REVEALS GROWING INTERNAL
DISSENTION

REF: (A) KINGSTON 4421, (B) KINGSTON 4506, (C) KINGSTON 3677,
(D) KINGSTON 4737, (E) KINGSTON 4724

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER OSNLEY'S PARTY, THE PEOPLE'S
NATIONAL PARTY (PNP), IS BEGINNING TO PAY THE PRICE FOR THE
RAPIDLY WORSENING ECONOMIC SITUATION. INTERNAL STRAINS BE-
TWEEN LEFTISTS AND MODERATE-CENTERISTS ARE BECOMMING MORE
APPARENT WITH THE LEFT TRYING TO PUSH MANLEY FURTHER AND
MORE FIRMLY IN THEIR DIRECTION AND SOME OF THE MODERATE-
CENTRISTS TRYING TO EASE HIM OUT. THE OPPOSITION SENSES
THESE WEAKNESSES AND IS COORDINATING ITS ATTACK AS BEST IT
CAN IN VIEW OF ITS OWN FRACTURED UNITY. WHETHER THE ANTI-
MANLEY FORCES WILL SUCCEED SHOULD
BE MORE APPARENT IN THE COMING WEEKS AS PREPARATIONS MOVE
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PAGE 02 KINGST 05235 01 OF 02 040208Z

AHEAD FOR THE PARTY CONGRESS IN SEPTEMBER. IF THIS
EMBASSY HAD TO MAKE A PROGNOSIS NOW, WE WOULD BE
INCLINED TO SAY THAT THE DUMP MANLEY CAMPAIGN WILL
NOT SUCCEED. ONE MAJOR FACTOR WOULD BE LACK OF
COURAGE ON THE PART OF THE MODERATES TO PRESS THEIR
POSITION AND ANOTHER MAJOR FACTOR WOULD BE NON-AVAILABILITY
OF A SUITABLE SUCCESSOR WITHIN THE PNP. THE MOST

LIKELY CANDIDATE IS FOREIGN MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON
BUT HE DOES NOT SEEM ANXIOUS TO MAKE A DEFINITIVE MORE
AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS THERE HAS BEEN INCREASING
EVIDENCE OF GROWING INTERNAL DISSENTION BETWEEN THE
LEFTISTS SKD CENTERISTS OR MODERATES IN THE RULING
PNP PARTY. ON JUNE 18, ONE OF THE PARTY'S LEADING
LEFT-WING IDEOLOGUES, D.K. DUNCAN, MADE A SPEECH
IN HIS CONSTITUENCY RIDICULING A DENIAL BY PNP
PARLIAMENTARIANS THAT THEY WERE TRYING TO DUMP MANLEY
(KINGSTON 4421 AND 4506). DUNCAN ALSO RAISED CHARGES
OF CORRUPTION WITHIN THE PNP PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AND

CALLED ON LEFT-WING ELEMENTS IN THE PARTY TO RALLY
BEHIND PRIME MINISTER MANLEY AND ISOLATE THOSE WHO
SUPPORT SOCIALISM IN PUBLIC BUT BEHAVE LIKE
CAPITALISTS AT HOME. DUNCAN'S COMMENTS PROVOKED
ALMOST IMMEDIATE RESPONSE FROM MANLEY, WHO SAID PARTY
OFFICIALS HAVE CALLED FOR A LOOK AT THE FULL TEXT
OF THE SPEECH. SUBSEQUENTLY, AFTER TWO NIGHTS OF
MEETINGS AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, DUNCAN
ISSUED A STATEMENT EXPRESSING REGRET TO THE PNP
PARLIAMENTARIANS AND WITHDREW "WITHOUT RESERVATION
ANY REMARKS AGAINST ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ALWAYS
STATED THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE STRUGGLE AGAINST
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PAGE 03 KINGST 05235 01 OF 02 040208Z

IMPERIALISM AND THEIR COMMITMENT TO COMRADE MICHAEL
MANLEY'S LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT."

3. IT WAS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED DURING THE WEEK THAT
FORMER FINANCE MINISTER DAVID COORE HAD RESIGNED HIS
PARLIAMENTARY SEAT (KINGSTON 3677 AND 4737). IN AN
EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBOFF, JLP PERMANENT
SECRETARY FRANK PHIPPS SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO
DECISION BY THE JLP TO CHANGE ITS POLICY OF REFUSING
TO CONTEST ELECTIONS UNTIL THE PNP AGREES TO ELECTORAL
REFORM. THE ANTICIPATED PNP CANDIDATE FOR COORE'S SEAT,
INTERNAL SECURITY MINISTER DUDLEY THOMPSON, A THREE-TIME
LOSER IN SUCH CONTESTS (KINGSTON 4737), WILL GAIN A
SEAT IN THE LOWER HOUSE IF THE JLP MAINTAINS ITS ATTITUDE
AND IF THE CONSTITUENCY ACCEPTS HIM AS CANDIDATE. PHIPPS
SAID THAT IF THE JLP RENIGED AND DECIDED TO CHALLENGE
THOMPSON, THEY MIGHT WIN A VICTORY BUT WOULD LOSE THE WAR
FOR ELECTORAL REFORM. AS MANY AS THREE CANDIDATES MIGHT
NOW CONTEST ANOTHER LOWER HOUSE SEAT VACATED BY THE

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05235 02 OF 02 011432Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINGSTON 5235

EARLIER RESIGNATION OF VIVIAN BLAKE.

4. ON JUNE 22, CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS AND PROMISES,
PRIME MINISTER MANLEY ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WOULD BE
NO FURTHER CABINET CHANGES. IT WILL BE RECALLED
THAT HE HAD EARLIER
SAID HE WOULD ANNOUNCE SUCH
CHANGES ON JUNE 8. THE REASONS GIVEN WERE THAT THE
MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS
OF A REPORT PREPARED BY A
COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY MINISTER OF PENSIONS AND SOCIAL
SECURITY HOWARD COOKE WERE TOO FAR REACHING IN THEIR
IMPLICATIONS, WOULD NOT BE CAPABLE OF IMPLEMENTATION
WITHOUT THE MOST EXHAUSTIVE CONSIDERATION AND THAT THE
REAL PRIORITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT AT THIS TIME IS RAPID
IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS BY INCREASING EFFICIENCY.
CERTAIN LESS FAR REACHING SUGGESTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE
ARE STYLL BEING CONSIDERED. IN THE MEANTIME, THE
MINISTRIES OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND MINING AND NATURAL
RESOURCES ASSIGNED TO HORACE CLARKE SINCE JANUARY WILL
BE CONSOLIDATED ON A PERMANENT BASIS. DR. UPTON
ROBOTHAM, PERMANENT SECRETARY IN VHESAMINISTRY OF
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PAGE 02 KINGST 05235 02 OF 02 011432Z

EDUCATION, WAS NAMED MINISTER OF STATE IN THAT MINISTRY
(THE ONLY CHANGE) WHICH IS STILL UNDER THE TUTELEGE OF

CARL RATTRAY, WHO IS ALSO MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL. NEW ARRANGEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE CONSEQUENT UPON THE APPOINTMENT OR RATTRAY AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER, I.E., IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE JUSTICE PORTFOLIO WILL BE GIVEN TO MINISTER OF INTERNAL SECURITY DUDLEY THOMPSON. THOMPSON WOULD THEN BE IN CHARGE OF BOTH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM. IF HE IS ELECTED TO DAVID CORRE'S SEAT IN THE LOWER HOUSE, HE MIGHT, AS HE RECENTLY TOLD AN EMBOFF, BECOME DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AS WELL. THE COUNCIL OF THE LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATION AS WELL AS THE TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION LOST NO TIME IN EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION OVER THE ARRANGEMENT OF SHARING JUSTICE AND EDUCATION.

5. THE OPPOSITION JAMAICA LABOR PARTY (JLP) IS PUSHING HARD AGAINST THE TRANSPARENT WEAKNESSES OF THE GOVERNING PARTY. THEY HAVE CALLED FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GREEN BAY FIASCO AND RESIGN. IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THIS WEEK, THE JLP SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BREAK ITS LONG SILENCE AND ISSUE A STATEMENT ON THE RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE SLAYING IN JUNE OF 1977 OF A CIVIL SERVANT, MR. OGILVIE, WHO WAS MURDERED WHILE LOOKING INTO CORRUPTION CHARGES AGAINST THE MINISTRY OF WORKS. DAILY GLEANER CORRESPONDENTS LONG HOSTILE TO THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUE THEIR ATTACKS CONCENTRATING ALSO ON ALLEGED CORRUPTION. (IN VIEW OF ITS OWN RECORD ON CORRUPTION JLP CHARGES OF PNP CORRUPTION ARE VIEWED WITH CYNICISM BY MOST).
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PAGE 03 KINGST 05235 02 OF 02 011432Z

6. BEGIN COMMENT: AS IT APPROACHES ITS 7TH YEAR IN OFFICE, THE PNP GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO BE HEADING FOR STORMY SEAS. THE ECONOMIC SITUATION, PARTICULARLY RISING PRICES, WORSENING UNEMPLOYMENT, SHORTAGES OF STAPLES AND MORE INSISTENT DEMANDS FOR INCREASES IN WAGES AND SALARIES, ARE WORKING AGAINST THOSE IN POWER WHO ARE HELD RESPONSIBLE. WITH THE OPPOSITION AND THE CRITICAL PRESS MAKING INCREASINGLY INSISTENT DEMANDS ON PRIME MINISTER MANLEY TO RESIGN, REPERCUSSIONS OF INTERNAL PARTY STRAINS OVER IDEOLOGY AND PERSONALITIES ARE BECOMING MORE APPARENT.

7. IN HIS MOVE TO NAME MANLEY LEADER OF THE MARXIST GROUP IN THE PARTY, D.K. DUNCAN IS TRYING TO ISOLATE THE PRIME MINISTER FROM THE CENTRISTS. THERE IS PROBABLY A GOOD DEAL OF TRUTH IN THE SUSPICIONS

VOICED BY DUNCAN IN HIS JUNE 18 SPEECH. HIS CHARGE
THAT DESPITE THEIR CRIES OF SUPPORT FOR MANLEY, AT
LEAST SOME MODERATE
PNP MEMBERS OF THE LOWER HOUSE
ARE WORKING AGAINST THE PRIME MINISTER JIBES WITH ONE
INTERPRETATION OF THE VERSION OF EVENTS GIVEN US BY
LABOR MINISTER ISSYS (KINGSTON 4724). WE ARE
STRUCK BY THAT PART OF DUNCAN'S SPEECH IN WHICH HE
SAID ISAACS FATHER, MILLS ISAACS AND GOVERNOR
GENERAL GLASSPOLE IN 1957 LEAKED PNP DOCUMENTS TO
THE GLEANER, DUNCAN THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN 1978
SOME PNP MEMBERS HAD DONE THE SAME THING, IMPROVING
"LIKE FATHER LIKE SON" TO THOSE INFORMED ON CURRENT
PNP DEVELOPMENTS. THE MODERATE CENTRISTS MAY WELL
BETRYING TO EASE MANLEY OUT TO SAVE THEMSELVES AND
THE PARTY. MANY VOTERS PERCEIVE JAMAICA'S CRISIS AS
COMING MOSTLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO THE IMF
WHICH SOME IN THE GOVERNMENT ARE MAKING THE FALL GUY.
MEMBERS OF THE LOWER HOUSE, PARTICULARLY PNP MEMBERS,
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PAGE 04 KINGST 05235 02 OF 02 011432Z

ARE UNDOUBTEDLY RECEIVING A GOOD DEAL OF THE
BLAME FROM THEIR CONSTITUENTS AND, NEED TO FIND SOME
WAY TO DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM UNPOPULAR POLICIES.
MANY OF THEM WERE UNHAPPY WITH MANLEY'S LEAP TO THE
LEFT AND HIS LACK OF SUCCESS IN BRINGING ABOUT THE
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS THAT THEY ALL AGREED
ON. MANLEY'S INABILITY TO MANIPULATE THE POLITICAL/
ECONOMIC STRUCTURES OF THE SOCIETY IS BLAMED BY SOME
IN HIS PARTY FOR THE FAILURE OF THE PNP'S REFORM
PROGRAM TO BRING ABOUT PROGRESS IN STABILITY. MANLEY
IN THEIR EYES WAS UNABLE TO KEEP THE PRODUCTIVE
ORGANS OF THE SOCIETY PRODUCING WHILE THE
PROCEEDS WERE REDISTRIBUTED IN A MORE EQUITABLE
WAY.
IRVING

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